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Message Text

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63
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 SNM-02 SS-20 SP-03 MMS-03 PER-05

ABF-01 DRC-01 RSC-01 /077 W
---------- 045338
R 161451Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3822

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: EAID
SUBJ: PROVISION OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

REF: STATE 97315

1. WE WELCOME DECISION CONVEYED IN PARA 1 REFTEL.

2. VICE MINISTER OF INTERIOR GROOUJORS INFORMED CHARGE AND CHIEF PUBLINNSAFETY ADVISOR SAENZ MAY 15 THAT HE EXPECTED GOV DECISION ON FUNDING PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES BEFORE THE END OF THIS WEEK. WE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM VICE MINISTER THAT UNDER TERMS OF FAA OF 1973 IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR USG TO PROVIDE RENT-FREE OFFICE SPACE FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY TEAM, AND AMBASSADOR REGRETFULLY WITHDRAWS HIS TENTATIVE OFFER ON THIS POINT.

3. WITH RESPECT TO EXPECTATION EXPRESSED IN PARA 2 REFTEL THAT VENEZUELA ALSO WOULD ASSUME ALL COSTS OF SCHOLARSHIPS TO POLICE ACADEMY IN WASHINGTON, EMBASSY URGENTLY REQUESTS RECONSIDERATION OF THIS POSITION FOR FOLLOWING REASONS: A) ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US, INCLUDING STATE 841 OF JANUARY 3, 1974 NOTIFYING US OF THE TERMINATION OF OVERSEAS POLICE TRAINING, WE MADE WHAT WE BELIEVED TO BE THE REASONABLE AND NATURAL ASSUMPTION THAT
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U.S.-FUNDED POLICE TRAINING IN THE U.S. WOULD NOT BE

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AFFECTED, AND HAVE BEEN DEALING WITH THE GOV AUTHORITIES ON THIS BASIS. B) PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISOR CARACAS RECENTLY RECEIVED TELEPHONIC ADVICE FROM OPS, AID/W THAT $165,000 WAS BEING PROPOSED FOR FUNDING OF VENEZUELAN STUDENTS AT IPS WASHINGTON. ON THE STRENGTH OF THIS ADVICE, WE PROCEEDED TO DEAL EVEN MORE POSITIVELY WITH GOV OFFICIALS WITH RESPECT TO USG FUNDING FOR TAINING OF VENEZUELAN POLICE OFFICERS IN THE U.S. C) THE CONSEQUENCE IS THAT THE GOV CLEARLY, AND WE BELIEVE JUSTIFIABLY, CONSIDERS THAT IT HAS A GOOD FAITH COMMITMENT FROM THE USG TO CONTINUE SOME USG-FUNDED POLICE TRAINING OF VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS IN THE U.S. RENEGING ON THIS POINT WOULD CAUSE DISTINCT EMBARRASSMENT TO THIS MISSION AND UNDO A GREAT DEAL OF WORK IN ATTAINING VALUABLE RELATIONS WITH SECURITY AND OTHER IMPORT, ELEMENTS OF THE PEREZ ADMINISTRATION, AND COULD JEOPARDIZE CONCLUSION OF WHAT WE BELIEVE WOULD BE MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS ARRANGEMENT FOR SELF-FINANCED PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES IN VENEZUELA.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: AUTHORIZATION BY DEPARTMENT TO MAKE FIRM OFFER OF USG FUNDING OF TRAINING OF VENEZUELAN POLICE OFFICERS IN THE U.S., IN THE EVENT THAT GOV REQUESTS AGREEMENT FOR SELF-FINANCED PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES IN VENEZUELA.
MCCLINTOCK

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